and study on Ocean life to the Central Government seeking its support and participation of Central Government by 50% of the cost; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The M inistry of Earth Sciences has a scheme for setting an Oceanarium in the country with objectives of pursuing Science on Marine Biology, Marine Chemistry, Marine Ecosystem etc. as well bringing awareness about the Marine Flora and Fauna to the general public.

The selection of site for the Oceanarium will be done considering Ocean Science and Technology base, suitable site availability, connectivity from land and Ocean and tourist potential.

Seismic surveys capability of Sagar Nidhi

2529. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the newly acquired Rs. 230 crore ship "Sagar Nidhi" is also having "seismic surveys" capabilities, apart from obtaining oceanographic and Hydrographic information, so that availability of crude oil and gas could also be found without incurring any extra capital expenditure or operational costs; and

(b) if so, would software, if any, required for the purpose be designed in consultation with ONGC, Oil India etc.?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. The newly acquired vessel Sagar Nidhi is a Technology Demonstration Vessel and does not have seismic survey capability.

(b) Dose not arise.

Categorization of earthquake prone areas

2530. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earthquake prone areas have been classified into various categories in the country;

(b) if so, the norms adopted for the classification;

(c) the earthquake resistant measures undertaken by Government during each of the last three years, category-wise; and

(d) the details of the allocation made and expenditure incurred by Government in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes.l Si*

(b) These areas have been classified based on the data available from past earthquake event. Particularly in terms of occurrences, frequencies and intensities over different regions of the country. The Bureau of Indian Standards has divided the country broadly into four

seismic zones *i.e.,* Zone-II, Zone-Ill, Zone-IV and Zone-V. Zone V is considered to be the most seismically active region while Zone-II is the least.

(c) Detailed mapping of the specific areas witli information on different parameters related to geology, geomorphology, land use, land cover, ground response spectra, basement configurations and landslide hazard, peak ground acceleration etc. need to be generated for seismic micro-zonation, so as to evolve earthquake resistant development plans within the broad zones of seismic hazard. Earthquake Risk Evaluation Center (EREC) is created in the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for generating such scientific inputs for mitigating seismic hazards. Several R&D programmes in seismology were also launched for generating specific inputs for generating urban scale seismic hazard within the broad zones of seismic hazard.

Further, several capacity building initiatives are taken by various Ministries of Government of India for moving towards seismic safety regime. Some of them are:

(i) Launch of Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project (UEVRP) in 38 cities With the population more than 5 lakhs.

(ii) Operating two Programmes for Engineers & Architects called "National Programme for Engineers in Earthquake Risk Management" and "National Programme for Capacity Building for Architects in Earthquake Management" by associating with IITs, NIT and Indian Institute of Architects.

(iii) Launch of National Programme on Earthquake Engineering Education (NPEEE) for strengthening the resource institutions in the field of improved earthquake.

All these initiatives .are aimed at reducing the vulnerability to earthquakes through preparation of response plans at various levels by training of architects and engineers in evolving overall earthquake resistant safe construction practices in the country.

(d) During past 3 years, a sum of Rs. 2.3 crores has been utilized by Ministry of Earth Sciences for generating appropriate scientific inputs for seismic hazard assessment. Also, for the promotion of R & D in the areas of earthquake science and for generating specific inputs for urban scale seismic hazard assessment, funds to the tune of Rs. 4.0 crores have been utilized.

Committee to review Centre-State relations

2531. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Committee to review Centre-State relations and whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the steps to implement the recommendations of the report; and

(c) if not, what are the measures contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government has constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under the Chairpersonship of Shri Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi (Retd.), former Chief Justice of India, *vide* Gazette notification dated the 27th April, 2007. The Commission has been mandated to submit its report within two years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.